

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/939,931

Examiner

Jinsong Hu

Applicant(s)

HACKNEY ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed on 11/13/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 7, 28 and 34-36, now as 1-9.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears bellow. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as proved by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Randy J. Pritzker (Reg. No. 35,986) on January 25, 2007.

In the Specification:

Please amend page 4, line 11 as follow:

Fig. ~~6A-6B~~ 6A-6C are flowcharts describing a class room login process;

In the Claims:

i) Please cancel claims 5-6 and 29-30.

ii) Please amend claims 1 and 28 as follow:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A system for synchronizing and serving multimedia content in a distributed network environment the system comprising:

a synchronization server, wherein the synchronization server includes a shared resource, and wherein the shared resource is updated by one of the plurality of clients in real time;

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a content server; and

a plurality of clients, wherein the synchronization server provides a indication of an update to a multimedia resource to the clients, and the content server provides content information to the clients based upon, wherein the content information is static and in response to, the indication provided by the synchronization server.

Claim 28. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented virtual course system adapted to a distributed network environment, the course system comprising:

a content server providing course-related information, wherein the course-related information comprises at least one of the following information: a course catalog and course instructional materials on a virtual whiteboard;

a plurality of clients adapted to exchange information with the content server; and
a synchronization server;

wherein the synchronization server provides an indication of an update to the course-related information to the clients, upon which at least one client sends a request for updated course-related information to the content server and the content server provides the updated course-related information to the at least one client in response to the request.

Reasons for allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's claimed invention distinguished over the prior art for the following reasons. The claims are allowable over the prior art of record because none of the references, either alone or in combination, discloses or renders obvious the method for synchronizing and serving multimedia content in a distributed network environment, the system comprising a synchronization server, wherein the synchronization server includes a shared resource, and wherein the shared resource is updated by one of the plurality of clients in real time; a content server; and a plurality of clients, wherein the synchronization server provides a indication of an update to a multimedia resource to the clients, and the content server provides content information to the clients based upon, wherein the content information is static and in response to, the indication provided by the synchronization server.

Conclusion

4. Any comments considering necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.

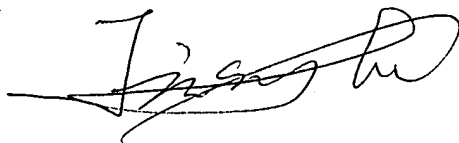
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jinsong Hu whose telephone number is (571) 272-3965. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A. Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jinsong Hu', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jinsong Hu

January 30, 2007